
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRIORITIZE
FUNDING TO WIDEN KUAKINI HIGHWAY BETWEEN HENRY STREET AND
KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on Kuakini highway between Lako
2 street and Kamehameha III road on Hawai'i island typically causes
3 traffic jams lasting several consecutive hours in the mornings
4 and evenings; and

5
6 WHEREAS, North Kona's population spiked by almost four
7 thousand people to nearly forty-two thousand total from 2010
8 through 2016, causing additional traffic on Kuakini highway; and

9
10 WHEREAS, relieving the bottleneck where the Queen Kaahumanu
11 and Kuakini highways merge by widening the roughly 1.7-mile
12 stretch of Kuakini highway between the highway's intersections
13 at Lako street and Kamehameha III road is necessary for the
14 community's safety because of the amount of traffic that moves
15 through that area; and

16
17 WHEREAS, widening Kuakini highway to make an additional
18 lane may cost tens of millions of dollars, in part, because of
19 the need to acquire surrounding property; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the federal government altered its priorities
22 toward the maintenance and safety of existing roadways rather
23 than the construction of new roadways; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the State has also modified its priorities toward
26 maintenance and safety of existing roadways as federal funding
27 is applicable and necessary for completion of the Kuakini
28 highway widening project; and

29
30 WHEREAS, easing traffic at one of Kona's most frustrating
31 pinch points on Kuakini highway between Henry street and
32 Kamehameha III road is in the best safety and public welfare
33 interests of the State; now, therefore,



1
2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
3 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
4 Department of Transportation is requested to prioritize funding
5 to widen Kuakini highway between Henry street and Kamehameha III
6 road on Hawai'i island and to consider a continuous four-lane
7 highway in the area; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
11 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

